

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1671

INFO AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NI, NG

SUBJ: NIGERIAN/NIGER JOINT COMMISSION MEETS

REF : LAGOS 9099, NIAMEY 3346 (NOTAL)

1. NIGERIA/NIGER JOINT COMMISSION FOR COOPERATION MET LAST WEEK SOKOTO, NORTH-WESTERN STATE. COMMISSION EXPERTS INITIATED DELIBERATIONS OCT. 14 PREPARATORY TO MINISTERIAL LEVEL CONFERENCE WHICH RAN TWO DAYS (OCT. 17 AND 18).

2. CONSEQUENT COMMUNIQUE INDICATES MINISTERS AGREED TO FOLLOWING: REVIEW EXISTING TRADE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES; IMPROVE POSTAL AND TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICE BETWEEN PARTIES PRINCIPAL TOWNS; ESTABLISHMENT JOINT INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES; MANAGE EFFECTIVELY WATER RESOURCES ON COMMON BORDER; INSTITUTE JOINT CAMPAIGN AGAINST PESTS. COMMISSION'S 1975/76 BUDGET ALSO APPROVED BUT PRECISE FIGURES, OTHER DETAILS NOT REVEALED. FMG ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND RECONSTRUCTION COMMISSIONER UMARU MATTALAB, WHO LED NIGERIAN DELEGATION AND REPORTEDLY PRESIDED OVER CONFERENCE, ANNOUNCED THAT COMMISSION EXPERTS WOULD CONTINUE WORK ON

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AGREEMENTS REACHED AT MEETING AND WOULD EXPLORE FURTHER AREAS

COOPERATION.

3. COMMENT: JOINT COMMISSION NOW SEEMS BACK ON TRACKS, REFLECTIVE OF IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN NIGERIA AND NIGER AND PERHAPS AUGURING FOR EVEN CLOSER TIES. HOWEVER REMAINS BE SEEN HOW SOMEWHAT GENERALLY WORDED COMMUNIQUE POINTS OF AGREEMENT ARE IMPLEMENTED. ALSO ISSUES OF NIGER'S LIVESTOCK EXPORT BAN AND ITS INDIGENT NATIONALS IN NIGERIA WOULD APPEAR REMAIN OUTSTANDING. THESE LATTER SUBJECTS CONTINUE DRAW SPORADIC ADVERSE PRESS COMMENT. AS SIGN FMG CONCERN NIGERIAN EMIGRANT PROBLEM, INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER UMARU SHINKAFI RECENTLY IN NWS CALLING FOR TIGHTER SECURITY AMONG LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN BORDER TOWNS.
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